

What is claimed is:

1. A sample suction apparatus comprising:
a first member, a second member and a third member
capable of linearly reciprocating along the same direction and
5 spaced apart from each other, the second member being
located between the first member and the third member;
a drive source provided on the third member to
enlarge and reduce a distance between the first member and
the third member;
10 an elastically compressible spacer inserted between
the second member and the third member; and
a suction needle provided on the third member, the
suction needle pointing to the first member, wherein the drive
source reduces the distance between the first member and the
15 third member to perform: a first action of shifting the first
member toward the third member to contact the first member
with a portion of a specimen vessel; a second action of shifting
the second member together with the third member toward the
first member to contact the second member with another
20 portion of the specimen vessel so that the specimen vessel is
sandwiched between the first and second members; and a third
action of shifting the third member toward the first member to
compress the spacer to bring the third member close to the
second member so that the suction needle is inserted in the
25 specimen vessel.

2. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first, second and third members comprise three sliders slidably mounted on a rail.

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3. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the drive source comprises an air cylinder having a piston rod, the air cylinder being provided on the third member and a distal end of the piston rod being connected with the

10 first member.

4. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising: a substrate on which the rail and a stopper for restricting the movement of the first member toward the third member are provided; and a biasing member for biasing the third member toward a direction opposite to the first member.

5. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising: a substrate on which the rail and a stopper for restricting the movement of the first member toward the third member are provided; and a biasing member for biasing the third member toward a direction opposite to the first member.

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6. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the spacer is a compressible spring.

5 7. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 1
further comprising a sensor for detecting that the specimen
vessel is sandwiched between the first member and the second
member.

10 8. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the second member includes a washing bath for
washing the suction needle.

9. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 1,
15 wherein blood is contained as a specimen in the specimen
vessel.

10. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 1,
which is utilized in a hematology analyzer.

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11. A hematology analyzer utilizing a sample suction
apparatus according to claim 1.